

10 Mar 2011

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Command Operations Report

This report is **required** by commands listed in **SNDL Parts 1 & 2** and all operational **Task Forces, Groups and Units** temporarily established to meet operational requirements.

The report format is divided into six sections: Command Data, Commander's Assessment, Chronology and Narrative, Supporting Reports, Published Documents, and Photographs. Required information is identified in specific sections of the form. See instructions appendices for assistance in compiling and on submitting this form and any attachments.

Electronic documents should be in a Microsoft Office format (Word, Excel, Power Point, or Access), HTML, PDF, JPG, GIF or plain text. Documents in electronic format are to be submitted via e-mail or on CD-ROM as explained at the end of this form. It is unnecessary to convert non-electronic documents to electronic format. List any enclosures that are not electronic and submit in hardcopy in the same manner as a CD-ROM. Photographs submitted electronically should be in JPG, TIFF or GIF format.

1. Command Data (Boxes will expand as information is typed)

Name of your Command or Organization: Strike Fighter Squadron ONE THREE SIX
Unit Identification Code (UIC), per the SNDL: 55141

Name and Rank of Commander/Commanding Officer/Officer in Charge:

Last: Dermody First: Jeffrey M.I.: A Rank: CDR

Date Assumed Command (date format YYYY-MM-DD): 2014-04-24

Mission/Command Employment/Area of Operations: The mission of VFA-136 is to "WIN IN COMBAT." The Knighthawks are an unbeatable combat team that prides itself on being the finest Strike Fighter Squadron in the US NAVY. We stand ready to answer our Nation's call to engage any adversary that threatens those principles we hold dear.

Permanent Location (Home Port for deployable units): NAS Oceana, Virginia Beach, VA

Immediate Superior In Command:

Operational: Captain William L. Ewald, Commander Carrier Air Wing ONE

Administrative: Captain Randy Stearns, Commander Strike Fighter Wing Atlantic

Identify your assigned Task Force/Group/Unit name(s) and mission(s). Include OPLAN(s) and or named operations you participated in during Task Force assignment (if applicable): Not Applicable

Name(s) of Forces, Commands, Ships, Squadrons or Units assigned or under your operational control (if applicable): Not Applicable

Type and number of Aircraft Assigned and Tail Codes, if applicable: FA-18E, 12, AB

Commands, Detachments or Units deployed on board or stationed aboard as tenant activities (as applicable): Not Applicable

Number of Personnel Assigned:

Officers: 21 Enlisted: 194 Civilian: 0

Command Point of Contact (required entry, complete in full):

Name (Rank, First Name, Middle Initial, Last Name): LTJG Blaine Lander
Job Title/Office Code: Public Affairs Officer
E-mail (both classified and unclassified, if available): (b) (6)
Phone number(s): (b) (6)
Command Mailing Address: VFA-136 Unit 60147 FPO AE 09504-6241

2. Commander's Assessment

The KNIGHTHAWKS, along with the rest of CVW-1, experienced a challenging Fleet Response Training Program (FRTP) during 2014 in order to prepare for the March 2015 deployment onboard USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (CVN 71). Throughout the year, the KNIGHTHAWKS successfully completed multiple detachments, covering all facets of strike fighter employment. Due largely in part to the dedication and professionalism of the KNIGHTHAWK officers and sailors, the squadron is fully prepared to WIN IN COMBAT.

In January 2014, the KNIGHTHAWKS went to Naval Air Station Key West to fly with CVW-1's newest addition, the VAW-125 TIGERTAILS, who became the first operational fleet E-2D squadron. The detachment produced significant data points and greatly contributed to future integration of the capabilities the E-2D brings to the fight. The KNIGHTHAWKS led the way in professionalism and production with 52 sorties completed and 66 hours flown, achieving the highest sortie completion rate within CVW-1 at 98%.

In the spring of 2014, the KNIGHTHAWKS continued training for all pilots back at NAS Oceana. LT (b) (6) achieved his SFWT Level III Combat Section Lead qualification, while LT (b) (6) and LT (b) (6) completed their SFWT Level IV Combat Division Lead qualification. CDR J. A. Dermody assumed command of the squadron in April 2014, and began leading the squadron through the rigorous Fleet Response Training Program (FRTTP) work-up cycle.

In June 2014, the KNIGHTHAWKS continued their dominance when they returned to Naval Air Station Key West to complete Air-to-Air Strike Fighter Advanced Readiness Program (SFARP). As the first phase in the workup cycle, the KNIGHTHAWKS immediately got to work and proved their effectiveness in the air-to-air arena, flying 103 sorties accumulating 109 hours of extremely valuable training.

The KNIGHTHAWKS shifted their focus to the strike mission set with Air-To-Ground Strike Fighter Advanced Readiness Program (SFARP) in August 2014. Leading from the front, the KNIGHTHAWKS flew 193 missions accumulating over 246 hours, while dropping 72,700 pounds of ordnance, and employing 3839 rounds of 20mm during a highly successful detachment to NAS Fallon.

The KNIGHTHAWKS took their expertise onboard the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT during Tailored Ship's Training Availability (TSTA) in September 2014. Being only the second detachment for the KNIGHTHAWKS onboard THEODORE ROOSEVELT, they proved their acumen for shipboard operations. A total of 351 sorties and 411.1 hours were flown with 328 day and night carrier arrestments.

With only two weeks between detachments, once again VFA-136 was headed to NAS Fallon in October 2014. Strengthening a reputation for leading from the front, the KNIGHTHAWKS executed 258 missions, spanning 471.7 flight hours. Additionally, the KNIGHTHAWKS employed over 17,300 pounds of ordnance, fired 3209 rounds of 20mm and continued to excel as the air wing's backbone for air-to-air employment.

2015 began with VFA-136 heading back to sea for the final evolution of the FRTTP. USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT and COMCARGRU-12 embarked in January with CVW-1 for Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX) and Joint Task Force Exercise (JTFX). With a focused effort from the entire CVW-1/ USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT team, CSG-12 was able to achieve the extremely important Blue Water Certification. VFA-136 continued to lead from the front, executing 401 sorties for 520.5 hours with a total of 379 day and night carrier arrestments. While performing these challenging training missions, the KNIGHTHAWKS successfully employed 23,980 pounds of ordnance, fired 5206 rounds of 20mm, dispensed five ALE-50 towed decoys, and were called on time and time again to lead air-to-air missions for CVW-1.

The KNIGHTHAWKS will continue to uphold the highest standards of the strike fighter community, maintaining their reputation as safe, professional, and effective combat pilots through the execution of any and all missions presented to them. VFA-136 will lead the air wing during the upcoming combat deployment onboard the USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT and will press forward with continued improvements to training and readiness. All efforts are directed to bolster

the KNIGHTHAWKS' esteemed reputation and better enable the command to achieve its mission: "WIN IN COMBAT"

3. Chronology

2014/01/19-2014/01/25	CVW-1 A/A READINESS DET
2014/04/24	CHANGE OF COMMAND
2014/06/17-2014/06/28	A/A SFARP
2014/08/04-2014/08/22	A/S SFARP
2014/09/17-2014/10/10	TSTA
2014/10/27-2014/11/21	AIRWING FALLON
2015/01/07-2015/02/09	COMPTUEX

Narrative

See Commander's Assessment

4. Supporting Reports (Refer to specific guide for Ship/Shore/Aviation or Fleet Command)

5. Published Documents

Unclassified - Base Guide Update

6. Photographs

CDR J.A. Dermody, Commanding Officer
CDR R.T. Lanane, Executive Officer

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